

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION ARA-01RELEASED IN PART  
B6

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00
	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SIL-01	SNP-01	SP-01
	SR-01	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	FMP-01

/101W

-----0F8CAT 142334Z /38

P 142332Z FEB 92  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8407

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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, VE  
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] DO NOT FORESEE SOCIAL  
- EXPLOSION SOON

B6

REF: 91 STATE 268439

1. [REDACTED] ON FEBRUARY 14 B6  
 TOLD POLOFF THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES DO NOT BELIEVE  
 THERE WILL BE A SOCIAL EXPLOSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.  
 [REDACTED] ARE SERVING IN A NUMBER OF B6  
 VENEZUELAN CITIES ([REDACTED] FOR EXAMPLE IS IN BARQUISIMETO  
 WHICH WAS VERY QUIET DURING THE COUP), MOSTLY IN SLUM  
 AREAS.

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2. [REDACTED] THAT THE POLICE ARE MORE VISIBLE IN POOR B6  
 NEIGHBORHOODS (RANCHOS), BUT THAT THEY HAVE NOT ABUSED  
 THE POPULATION. (NOTE: REPRESSIVE POLICE SWEEPS WERE  
 REPORTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT IN THE  
 CARACAS NEIGHBORHOOD OF 23 DE ENERO. CIVILIAN SNIPERS  
 WERE OBSERVED DURING THE COUP ATTEMPT SHOOTING AT LOYAL  
 SOLDIERS.) [REDACTED] EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT, AS  
 THE POLITICAL FALLOUT (FROM THE COUP ATTEMPT) BETWEEN  
 THE MILITARY AND THE CIVILIANS CONTINUED, POLICE MIGHT

B6

B6

BE TEMPTED TO ABUSE THE POPULATION. DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

3. [REDACTED] SAID THAT "BARRIO" B6  
RESIDENTS SEE COMMANDER HUGO CHAVEZ FRIAS, LEADER OF THE  
ATTEMPTED COUP, AS A VENEZUELAN OF MERIT ("UN  
VENEZUELANO DE VALOR"). SINCE SEEING THE COMMANDER,  
THE POOR SEEM TO HAVE DEVELOPED A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE.  
FOR THE FIRST TIME, [REDACTED] THE POOR SEEM TO HAVE A B6  
CONCRETE IDEA OF THE TYPE OF LEADERSHIP THEY COULD HAVE,  
AND THEY REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT CHAVEZ WOULD HAVE  
INSTITUTED A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. THE COUP HAS HAD AN  
IMPACT ON THE POLITICAL "WELTANSCHAUNG" OF THE POOR,  
BUT, [REDACTED] IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT PARTY POLITICAL B6  
MACHINES WILL NOT GET OUT THEIR VOTES IN THE UPCOMING  
ELECTION. PATRONAGE POLITICS, [REDACTED] IS STILL B6  
DOMINANT IN POOR NEIGHBORHOODS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF  
POVERTY. [REDACTED] THAT "ONLY IF SOMETHING B6  
EXTRAORDINARY HAPPENS WILL THE POOR COME DOWN FROM THE  
HILLS IN SUPPORT OF FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE THAT WILL AFFECT  
THEIR LIVES POSITIVELY." SKOL

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